

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 2550 – SB 2609

April 2, 2018

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop academic standards for a comprehensive firearm education course to be offered as an elective in high school. Requires the course to incorporate history, mathematics, and science related to firearms and firearm safety education as recommended by law enforcement agencies and firearms associations. Such requirement shall apply to the 2019-2020 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures -- \$20,500/One-Time

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (016242): Deletes and replaces all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive changes are as follows: (1) authorizes local education agencies (LEAs) to adopt a gun safety class or program; and (2) removes language from the original legislation which prohibits the presence of live ammunition.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$500/Permissive

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent that a gun safety program allows for the presence of live ammunition, recurring federal funds for K-12 education may be jeopardized as a result of this legislation.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The amended legislation removes language which may prohibit the presence of live ammunition and instead prohibits the use of live ammunition.
- Based on information from the Department of Education, since Tennessee does not allow students or instructors of gun safety programs to carry on school grounds, if they were to be in possession of any handgun and/or live ammunition, then it would be a violation of the federal Gun Free School Zone Act.

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- To the extent LEA-approved programs allow for live ammunition, federal funds for K-12 schools could be jeopardized.
- The amount of federal funding that could be in jeopardy is unknown and dependent upon action of the U.S. Department of Education; however, the Governor's proposed budget identifies \$1,137,319,100 of federal funding on page B-81.
- The SBE will not have to conduct standards review.
- LEAs electing to implement a gun safety program will incur a permissive increase in local expenditures for printing and materials.
- The statewide extent of any permissive recurring local government expenditures cannot be specifically determined due to several unknown factors. However, such impact is reasonably estimated to exceed at least \$500 statewide each year.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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